

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 48

Determination of the authorship to be attributed to the work published anonymously in the year 1798 under the title *Museum Boltenianum* (*Direction* supplementary to *Opinion* 96)

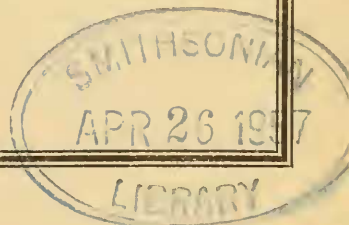
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 48

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B. The Members of the Commission

Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology)

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Dr. K. H. L. KEY (*Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia*) (15th October 1954)

Dr. Alden H. MILLER (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*) (29th October 1954)

Doc. Dr. Ferdinand PRANTL (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

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DIRECTION 48

DETERMINATION OF THE AUTHORSHIP TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE WORK PUBLISHED ANONYMOUSLY IN THE YEAR 1798 UNDER THE TITLE " MUSEUM BOLTENIANUM " (" DIRECTION " SUPPLEMENTARY TO " OPINION " 96)

RULING :—(1) It is hereby ruled that the authorship of the work published anonymously in 1798 under the title *Museum Boltenianum* is to be attributed to Peter Friedrich Röding.

(2) The title of the work specified in (1) above is hereby placed on the *Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature* with the Title Number 26, the entry so to be made to be endorsed as regards authorship as prescribed in (1) above.

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 29th October 1954, Mr. Hemming, after consultation with Dr. L. R. Cox (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (paragraph 2 below), submitted to the International Commission

on Zoological Nomenclature the following application in which, in order to obtain guidance as to the action to be taken when entering on the *Official Lists* or *Official Indexes* names first published in 1798 in the anonymous work *Museum Boltenianum*, he asked for a Ruling on the question of the authorship to be attributed to the foregoing work, this being a matter which had not been dealt with by the Commission when in *Opinion* 96 (1926, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 4) : 16—18) it had ruled in favour of the acceptability of names published in the foregoing work :—

**Proposed determination of the authorship to be attributed
to the catalogue published anonymously in 1798 under
the title “Museum Boltenianum” (problem
supplementary to “Opinion” 96)**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

The active steps now being taken to prepare the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (and also the other *Official Lists* and the *Official Indexes*) for publication in book form have brought to light inconsistencies in the treatment accorded to various books in some of the older entries on the *List*. Most of these present no real difficulty, but some are of a nature which, in my view, calls for a further decision by the International Commission. The present note, which is concerned with the authorship of the anonymously published catalogue entitled the *Museum Boltenianum* which appeared in 1798, is one of these cases.

2. As the title suggests, the *Museum Boltenianum* is a catalogue of the collection formed by J. F. Bolten. It was prepared for publication by P. F. Röding. This work contains many new names, and the question which calls for decision is whether those names should be attributed to Bolten or to Röding.

3. The question whether the *Museum Boltenianum* should be accepted as having been duly published for the purposes of Article 25 of the *Règles* was submitted to the Commission some thirty years ago by Dr. Tate Regan (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London), and in *Opinion* 96 (published in 1926, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 4) : 16—

18) the Commission ruled in favour of the availability of this work. In that *Opinion* the Commission gave no indication, however, of its view as to the authorship to be attributed to this work.

4. I discussed this question with Mr. R. Winckworth (*London*) some years before his death, knowing that he possessed an exceptionally wide and detailed knowledge of the older literature of his subject. The view which he took was that the new names in the *Museum Boltenianum* were Bolten's names, that the "indications" given for those names were provided by Röding and therefore that Röding and not Bolten should, under the *Règles*, be regarded as the author of the new names in this book. Not long after this discussion, Mr. Winckworth published a short note setting out the above views (Winckworth, 1945, *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* **26** : 136).

5. In anticipation of making the present application, I recently applied for advice to Dr. L. R. Cox (*British Museum (Natural History), London*), whose work also, as I knew, brought him into contact with the *Museum Boltenianum*. Dr. Cox at once agreed that a decision on the authorship to be attributed to this work was overdue, and kindly undertook to write to me as soon as he had examined the literature relating to this subject. In an interesting letter dated 26th October 1954 (which is being published simultaneously with the present application)¹ Dr. Cox gives what I consider to be very convincing reasons for accepting Röding as the author, for the purposes of zoological nomenclature, of the new names in the *Museum Boltenianum*.

6. Bolten was undoubtedly the author of the names in question, but it appears to me to be clear from the information furnished by Mr. Winckworth and Dr. Cox that it was Röding alone who supplied the "indications" for these names. On this view, these names should be regarded as manuscript names of Bolten's validated by being published with indications by Röding. As such, these names are attributable to Röding, whose action alone gave them the status of availability under the *Règles* (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 259—260).

7. I accordingly recommend that Röding should be accepted as the author of the *Museum Boltenianum*. I recommend also that the present opportunity should be taken to place the title of the above work on the *Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature* (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 24, Decision 24), a step which will in any case need to be taken at some time in pursuance

¹ The letter from Dr. Cox here referred to is reproduced in paragraph 2 of the present *Direction*.

of the General Directive issued by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, that decisions taken in *Opinions* previously rendered be transferred to the appropriate Schedules to the *Règles* (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 340).

8. The proposals now submitted are therefore that the International Commission should :—

- (1) give a Ruling that the authorship of the work published anonymously in 1798 under the title *Museum Boltenianum* be attributed to Peter Friedrich Röding ;
- (2) place the title of the foregoing work, with the authorship attributed as directed in (1) above, on the *Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature* (codification of Ruling given in *Opinion* 96).

2. Support by Dr. L. R. Cox (British Museum (Natural History), London) for the acceptance of P. F. Röding as the author of the “Museum Boltenianum” : Following oral discussions with Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, Dr. L. R. Cox (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) on 26th October 1954 addressed a letter to the Office of the Commission setting out the evidence available regarding the authorship of the work *Museum Boltenianum*. Dr. Cox's letter, which is referred to by Mr. Hemming in paragraph 5 of his application, was as follows :—

The position seems to be that J. F. Bolten built up a large collection which he arranged systematically in accordance with a new scheme of classification of his own, assigning to each species a binominal Latin name and a vernacular German name. There is no evidence that he contemplated any sort of publication, but we are told (p. iii. of the *Museum Boltenianum*) that there was a “systematic catalogue of the collection which had been prepared with the greatest accuracy and care by its late possessor” [translation from the Latin]. On his death it was desired to sell the collection, and P. F. Röding took the catalogue and added to each species any references to figures in earlier literature which he could trace and a reference to the name assigned to the species in the 13th (Gmelin's) edition of Linnaeus, if it was there listed. All this is explained by Röding in his “Vorrede” to the *Museum Boltenianum* (pp. vii—viii), an English translation of which has been published by W. H. Dall (1915, *Smithson. Publ.* 2360 : 9).

R. Winckworth (1945, *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* **26** : 136) has discussed the question of the authorship of the work as follows :

“ The names are often attributed to Bolten, as the originator. But his manuscript catalogue contained only Latin names with German vernacular equivalents. It was not until the catalogue was published ‘ revised and enlarged by the addition of synonymy by Peter Friedrich Röding, a man devoted to natural history and especially to conchology ’, as the Abbé Lichtenstein records in the preface, that the names became available. Röding in the introduction says : ‘ On account of my love for natural history I accepted the labour and have added the Latin names according to the 13th Edition of Gmelin’s Linnean System, as well as many references to figures of the specimens. In many cases this had to be left undone because no figures were found to be satisfactory.’ It seems to me clear that the author should be cited as Röding *ex* Bolten MS., or more concisely as Röding. Iredale, however, takes the view that ‘ Bolten was the author of the genera and nominator of the species ’.”

The practice by the earlier authors (such as Dall) who accepted the *Museum Boltenianum* was to attribute the generic and specific names to Bolten. Nowadays, however, almost every author known to me attributes them either to Röding or to “ Röding *ex* Bolten MS.”.

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. Registration of the present application : Upon receipt of Mr. Hemming’s paper, the question of the authorship to be attributed to the work entitled *Museum Boltenianum* was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 866.

4. Publication of the present application : The present application, together with Dr. Cox’s letter reproduced in paragraph 2 above, was sent to the printer on 22nd November 1954 and was published on 31st January in the following year in Part 2 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hemming, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 56—57 ; Cox, *ibid.* **11** : 58).

5. No objection received : The publication of the present application elicited no objection to the action proposed from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(55)17 : On 9th November 1955, a Voting Paper (V.P.(55)17) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the authorship of the catalogue entitled *Museum Boltenianum* and other matters set out in Points (1) and (2) in paragraph 8 on page 57 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in paragraph 8 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 9th February 1956.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)17 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)17 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Hering ; Vokes ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Mayr ; Jaczewski ; Riley ; Dymond ; Prantl ; Sylvester-Bradley ;

Lemche ; Esaki ; Mertens ; do Amaral ; Hankó ; Key ;
Boschma ; Cabrera ; Stoll ; Bonnet ; Miller ; Tortonese ;
Kühnelt ; Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1)* :

Bodenheimer.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 10th February, 1956, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(55)17, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Direction ” : On 20th May 1956, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(55)17.

11. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

12. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction* Forty-Eight (48) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twentieth day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING